

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 280412Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0962

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0981

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT

SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT AMEMBASSY AMMAN 26 FEB 75

AND THEN REPEATED TO AMEMBASSY MADRID DUE NON-DELIVERY

OF TELEGRAM BY C&R AMEMBASSY AMMAN ON 27 FEBRUARY:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0981

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS

AMMAN FOR SENATOR PERCY AND SPECIAL AMBASSADOR BUCHEN

FOLLWING IS DRAFT ELEGRAM I HAVE PREPARED BASED ON SENATOR
PERCY'S AND MY NOTES OF DISCUSSIONS HERE ON PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS.
I SUGGEST YOU REVIEW THIS DRAFT, SUPPLEMENTING IT OR AMENDING
IT AS REQUIRED, AND SEND IT TO THE DEPT OF STATE, KABUL
AND ISLAMABAD DIRECTLY FROM AMMAN.

1. BEGIN DRAFT TELEGRAM. SUMMARY. DISCUSSIONS
DURING CORONATION PERIOD IN NEPAL SEPARATELY WITH HEADS
OF AFGHAN AND PAK DELEGATIONS APPEAR TO OFFER PROSPECT OF
DE-ESCALATION OF PROPRAGANDA FLOW FROM PAK AND AFGHAN PRESS
AND RADIO AS WELL AS MOVEMENT TOWARD DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN
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AFGHANS AND PAKS ON THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR PERCY, PHILIP W. BUCHEN, HEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE CORONATION OF KING BIREDRA, AND AMB CARGO MET IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 25 WITH MOHAMMAD NAIM, CHIEF OF THE AFGHAN DELEGATION TO THE CORONATION ON THE QUESTION OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS. THE MEETING WAS THE RESULT OF A REQUEST MADE AT THE HOME OF SENATOR PERCY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AGA HILALY AND PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. FROM PAKISTAN, AMBASSADOR YACOUB KHAN WHO ASKED IF SENATOR PERCY COULD MEET WITH THE AFGHAN DELEGATION, IF IT WAS HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL, TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO LESSEN THE MOUNTING TENSION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF PAKISTAN HOME MINISTER SHERPAO FEBRUARY 8.

3. SENATOR PERCY OPENED THE MEETING BY INDICATING THAT THE U.S. WAS DESIROUS OF SEEING IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, WHICH WERE IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND WANTED TO BE HELPFUL TO THIS END. HE INDICATED THAT AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DAUD AND WITH NAIM, HE WAS VERY HOPEFUL OF IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS SINCE HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT AFGHANISTAN SOUGHT ONLY PEACEFUL AND DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS TOXUTSTANDING AFGHANISTAN"PAKISTANI PROBLEMS. HE OBSERVED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS MEETINGS IN KABUL AND WAS ENCOURAGED BY THEM.

4. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES IS NOW DISTURBED BY CONTINUED VIOLENCE CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF HOME MINISTER SHERPAO, BY THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NAP, THE JAILING OF OPPOSITION LEADERS, INTENSIFICATION OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THE FEELING EXPRESSED BY SOME PAKISTANIS THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS SOMEHOW BEEN INVOLVED AND THAT AGENTS TRAINED IN AFGHANISTAN HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO RISING VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN. THE U.S. IS ALSO DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLIED THREATS OF RETALIATION THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY PAKISTAN.

5. WITH THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO IN THE SUBCONTINENT BY THE U.S., THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT IT HAS A DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO ASK FOR RESTRAINT AND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO REDUCE TENSION AND NORMALIZE RELATIONSHIPS.

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6. SPECIAL AMBASSADOR BUCHEN STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF LESSENING THE PROPAGANDA THAT HAS FLOWED ON THE AIR WAVES AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD BE DONE BY BOTH SIDES TO LESSEN TENSIONS AND AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

7. MINISTER NAIM STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT AFGHANISTAN WANTS CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN FOR THE FUTURE, WANTS NO

PAKISTANI TERRITORY AND HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON PAKISTAN, DOES NOT SEEK TO CREATE A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN PAKISTAN AND BELIEVES ANY SUCH SEPARATION WOULD NOT BE VIABLE. AFGHANISTAN DESIRES ONLY THAT THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES OF PAKISTAN BE PERMITTED TO LIVE IN HARMONY INSIDE PAKISTAN (SENATOR PERCY REPEATED THE WORDS "INSIDE PAKISTAN" AND NAIM CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS HIS INTENDED STATEMENT.) NAIM EMPHASITICALLY STATED THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD NO RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSASSINATION OR TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN AND WAS NOT TRAINING TERRORISTS IN AFGHANISTAN, RUMORS OR REPORTS OF WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "A COMPLETE FALSEHOOD." NAIM STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES AFGHANISTAN'S CONCERNS WITH MASS ARRESTS WITHIN PAKISTAN, DISSOLUTION OF THE NAP, AND PAK MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BALUCHISTAN, STATING THAT AFGHANISTAN WANTED BHUTTO TO SETTLE THINGS HARMONIOUSLY IN PAKISTAN AND TO ENSURE EQUALITY OF RIGHTS WITHIN PAKISTAN.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0981

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

8. WE GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM NAIM THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF PROPAGANDA ON THE AIR WAVES (ALTHOUGH HE DENIED AFGHANISTAN WAS ENGAGING IN SUCH ACTIVITIES), IF PAKISTAN WOULD REDUCE ITS LEVEL. AFGHANISTAN WOULD FAVOR HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS WITH PAKISTAN ASSUMING THAT ADEQUATE PRELIMINARY WORK IS FIRST DONE AT LOWER LEVELS TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. SENATOR PERCY DESCRIBED THIS AS AN UNDERSTANDABLE "STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS" WHICH WE FAVOR IN OUR OWN DIPLOMACY.

9. SENATOR PERCY NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING TOGETHER

WITH SPECIAL AMBASSADOR PHILIP BUCHEN, WITH PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY OF PAKISTAN BEFORE LEAVING NEPAL AND WOULD CONVEY TO HIM THE THE SENSE OF WHAT NAIM HAD SAID. NAIM INDICATED HIS ASSENT TO THIS. SENATOR PERCY NOTED THAT HE AND SPECIAL AMBASSADOR BUCHEN WOULD SPEAK AS FRIENDS OF BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN BECAUSE THE SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE ENHANCED IF UNNECESSARY MILITARY EXPENDITURES COULD BE AVOIDED AND IF THE PRESENT DEEP MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD ALSO BE REDUCED.

10. LATER ON FEBRUARY 25 SENATOR PERCY AND SPECIAL AMBASSADOR BUCHEN MET WITH PAKISTAN PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY AT THE SOALTEE HOTEL. SENATOR PERCY BEGAN BY INDICATIONG THAT THE REQUEST MADE OYKHM BY FORMER AMBASSADOR HILALY AND AMBASSADOR YACOUB KHAN TO MEET WITH THE AFGHAN DELEGATION CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AND THAT HE AND COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT PHILIP W. BUCHEN AND AMBASSADOR CARGO HAD MET EARLIER THAT DAY WITH MOHAMMED NAIM.

11. PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPRECIATION, INDICATING THAT NAIM WAS NUMBER TWO IN THE GOVERNMENT, VERY CLOSE TO HIS BROTHER AND COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY. HE WAS AXNXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AND NAIM'S REACTIONS.

12. SENATOR PERCY INDICATED THAT THE U.S. WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT LEVEL OF TENSION, PROPAGANDA AND TERRORISM INVOLVING AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND THAT IT NOT ONLY LOOKED WITH CONCERN UPON THIS BECAUSE IT INVOLVED THE TWO FRIENDS OF THE U.S. BUT ALSO BECAUSE THIS SITUATION SERIOUSLY DETRACTED FROM THE STABILITY OF THE SUBCONTINENT, DIVERTED ATTENTION OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS FROM BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE WELFARE OF ALL CITIZENS AND ALSO HAD THE POTENTIAL, IF CARRIED TO EXTREME, FOR MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S.M.

13. SENATOR PERCY REVIEWED THE DISCUSSION WITH NAIM, EMPHASIZING AND REPEATING TO PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY THE ASS- URANCES GIVEN BY NAIM AS TO AFGHAN POLICIES AND POLICY ATTITUDES TOWARD PAKISTAN (PARA 7 ABOVE). HE ADDED THAT NAIM AT LEAST HAD SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN WAS NOT ENGAGING IN A PROPAGANDA WAR AND FURTHER INDICATED THAT FROM BEST HE COULD DETERMINE FROM OUR OWN SOURCES, AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN LATEST WAVE OF TERROR AND CERTAINLY NOT IN ASSASSINATION. HE INDICATED NAIM APPEARED WILLING TO MUTUALLY REDUCE LEVEL OF TENSION AND WOULD FAVOR MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS BEGINNING AT LOWER WORKING LEVEL TO ENSURE SUCCESS AT THE TOP.

14. PRESIDENT CHAUDTRY DID NOT ASSERT AFGHANISTAN COMPLICITY IN ASSASSINATION BUT DID SAY THAT AJMEL KHATTAK RESIDED IN KABUL AND ANYONE WISHING ARMS OR ASSISTANCE IN CREATING TROUBLE IN TRIBAL AREAS OF BALUCHISTAN COULD OBTAIN THEM THROUGH HIM. HOWEVER, HE SAID IT WOULD BE WELL WORTHWHILE FOR EACH SIDE TO MAKE EFFORT TO REDUCE TENSION AND PAKISTAN WOULD BE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO HOLD MEETINGS.

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15. SENATOR PERCY AND SPECIAL AMBASSADOR BUCHEN INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE WELL IF EACH COUNTRY WOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR ITS PRESS AND RADIO BROADCASTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTENT LESSENED TENSION OF INCREASED TENSION, IMMEDIATELY CURTAILING ANY TENSION PRODUCING OUTPUT, AND IF AN EARLY DATE COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS. THIS WAS FULLY ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY. PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY CONSIDERED NAIM'S REPRESENTATIONS TO US IMPORTANT AND REASSURING, PARTICULARLY HIS DENIAL OF AFGHAN TERRITORIAL INTERESTS IN PAKISTAN AND OF ANY AFGHAN DESIRE TO FOSTER SEPARATISM FOR ANY PART OF PAKISTAN⁹. HE SAID "IF THIS IS TRUE PAKISTAN WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE ALL REMAINING DEFFICULTIES." HE STATED THAT PAKISTAN WOULD MONITOR ITS PRESS AND RADIO ACTIVITIES BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY.

16. LATER IN THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 25, THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION ASKED WHETHER CESSATION OF PROPAGANDA COULD BE EFFECTIVE IN A FEW DAYS AS THEY DID NOT WISH TO USE TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS FROM KATHMANDU BUT PREFERRED TO TAKE THIS UP DIRECTLY WITH BHUTTO TWO DAYS HENCE. PROGRAM MIGHT ALSO BE DELAYED A DAY OR SO BECAUSE OF VISIT OF SHAH OF IRAN TO PAKISTAN. SENATOR PERCY SUGGESTED THAT MARCH FIRST BE EFFECTIVE DATE AND THIS WAS ACCEPTED. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE RESPECTIVE CAPITALS WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH CLOSELY WITH THE SITUATION.

17. SENATOR PERCY AND AMBASSADOR CARGO MET NAIM SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT HIS MAJESTY'S FAREWELL RECEPTION. SENATOR PERCY FULLY BRIEFED NAIM ON THE CONVERSATIONS WITH PAKISTAN PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY. NAIM INDICATED HIS ASSURANCES THAT MARCH FIRST DATE WAS SATISFACTORY AND THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD COOPERATE IN THIS PROGRAM. NAIM SAID HE CONSIDERED IT AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE U.S. FOR ITS ASSISTANCE.

18. LATER AT A DINNER PARTY AT PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, PAKISTANI OFFICIALS , INCLUDING PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY, EXPRESSED SIMILAR APPRECIATION. END DRAFT TELEGRAM.

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